

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 10, 2017

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Steve Elkins, Jennifer Munt, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber, Marie McCarthy, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman

Committee Members Absent:

TAB Liaison Present:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:01pm on Monday, July 10, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

The TAB had not met since the 6/26/17 Transportation Committee meeting, so there was nothing to report.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

TPP Visits

Starting visits with the counties and major cities on the TPP this week, with the City of Minneapolis, Ramsey County, Hennepin County and Dakota County up first. The visits are a chance to go out and explain what's changing with the TPP and listen to the staff level on what changes they see or what's coming. With the dissolution of CTIB, some of the counties will have new funds that we need to account for in TPP and a need to understand where the priorities will be. There will be follow ups, where policy makers are invited, with each of the areas most likely in the Fall when there are drafts to talk about.

CTIB Dissolution

Continue to work with counties on various steps but seems to be on track.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann on behalf of General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Ridership

After a slight drop in ridership last year, we've seen a small increase in ridership through the first six months of the year. Overall, nearly 41 million rides have been provided through the end of June, a half-percent increase from last year.

Ridership is up 7 percent on the Blue Line, 5 percent on Green Line and 7 percent on Northstar, which is seeing its best ridership since 2013. Bus ridership is down a little more than 1 percent, but the downward trend we've been seeing has slowed significantly. We also had two notable achievements this March, when we saw our highest monthly Metropass and Student Pass ridership totals ever.

Light-rail construction (with video)

Recent light rail construction in downtown Minneapolis was completed on time and without any unanticipated challenges. The 11-day closure of several light rail stations allowed us to replace several sections of curved track and make other improvements. To allow for signals work and testing, we'll need to suspend service downtown again on two weekends this October. But we don't expect to have major construction like this again for another 20 years. Deputy Chief of Operations for Rail, John Humphrey, explained the project and thanked customers for their patience in a video we shared last week.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2017-118 JT:** 2017 Unified Budget Amendment 2nd Quarter
Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented their respective division's amendments to the 2017 Unified Budget. Dorfman asked what the Nicollet Central Street Car project was that Metro Transit was closing, to which Petrie answered this was \$150,000 from the city of Minneapolis that contracted with us to provide staff engineering expertise. We had only spent about \$8,000, so the remaining balance will be given back to the city.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital Program – Attachment #1 (Program Level).

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 Unified Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with attachment #2.

Motion passed.

2. **2017-10 SW:** Operations & Maintenance Agreement with TCWR

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Reynoso asked if there were penalties or fines if our trains were delayed due to freight traffic. Alexander responded that the LRT tracks are separated from the freight tracks so LRT traffic will not be affected. Dorfman asked why do we have the Southerly connector to MN&S. Alexander said that the connection is required because the SWLRT project will be removing the existing connection. Barber asked how long the STB process was expected to take. Alexander said that it is an administrative process and is expected to take 30 to 45 days.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an Operations and Maintenance Agreement (OMA) between the Council and Twin Cities & Western Railroad

Company (TCWR) related to freight access and operations on the Bass Lake Spur and Kenilworth Corridor as a result of the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Project).

Motion passed.

3. 2017-141: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Condemnation on Parcels over \$1 Million

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Council members asked what exactly would be taken with the Rosemount site and the Calhoun Towers site, to which Mr. Alexander clarified that we wouldn't be taking any buildings, but just a portion of the property at the south end of the Rosemount site and a slice of land north of the Calhoun Towers.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Green Line Extension LRT Project Office to use condemnation on the following parcels appraised at greater than \$1 million in the event that staff is not able to acquire by negotiation:

Parcel Number	Owner
211	Rosemount
302	Liberty - Golden Triangle
401	AMS
406	Real-Time Properties
424	Hopkins Tech Center
505	Pawn America
508	5501 Building Company
701	Calhoun Towers

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Twin Cities Shared Mobility Action Plan

Metro Transit Director Strategic Initiatives John Levin introduced Creighton Randall and Aaron Westling of Shared Use Mobility Center (SUMC) who presented this item. Randall and Westling answered questions from members: TMOs were key stakeholders in these conversation, what tools do they need to make this successful (equipment to help them build skillset around project management and moving towards a system where cities are engaged); was input from suburbs was different than urban core (more interest in solutions like Southwest Transit Prime service); have other transit systems gotten their head around Uber/Lyft (most programs that are happening are still in 'pilot' mode and it's tough to know without measuring, which is hard to do without data); negative impact when TNCs are integrated into a system and the long term impact to the community (this is something that hasn't been asked from cities/regional councils but the only way to know is to ask for the data); is anywhere in the country getting data from TNCs (New York, Boston, DC, Portland, San Francisco); why hasn't Van Pool grown in this area (lack of investment in advertising, prohibition on downtown locations).

2. Transit Onboard Survey Results

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich presented this item. Ehrlich answered questions from members: can we see what changes were seen in trends between this report and the last time it was conducted (yes); are we able to drill down the data to look at student travel behavior and the characterization of income (yes); did the survey cover if transit riders were using TNCs (yes but didn't find a tremendous amount of evidence that people are using TNCs); how many

total conversations were had (60,000 -70,000 and all workers identified themselves as working for the Metropolitan Council); how much of the \$1.3M was spent on wages (in some respective all of it but we had mandated certain rates of pay for the temp workers).

3. Met Council Triennial FTA DBE Program Goal

Metropolitan Council Director of Equal Opportunity introduced Metropolitan Council Supervisor EO Tracey Jackson and Metropolitan Council Program Tech Specialist Kevin Murphy who presented this item. Kirkpatrick and Jackson answered questions from members: what happens if we don't obtain the 15% goal (we send in information to FTA many different times within the 3 year period, to ensure we are on track to meet the goal and provide lots of training for DBEs and training throughout cities for capacity building); is there training for those who could be DBE but need to go through the process (yes); problem if we surpass goal year after year (no problem but FTA could say you don't need the program/goal; it's been shown throughout the country, that absent a goal the same companies that are DBEs aren't used); how do we monitor fraud (sites visits; if fraud is found we council them and the contractor cannot have them on the project anymore or take the steps to make them not a DBE); have we looked at creating an inventory of infrastructure projects in the 7 county metro to be proactive with workforce and DBEs we need (currently work closely with partners agencies but nothing in writing; will collaborate to a defined lists of projects before next triennial).

4. Orange Line Update

Metro Transit BRT/Small Starts Project Manager Christina Morrison and Metro Transit BRT/Small Starts Associate Planner Natalie Westberg presented this item.

5. Arterial BRT Update

Metro Transit BRT/Small Starts Project Manager Katie Roth presented this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary